

### **Paradox 3: *The Weak are Strong*     Luke 13:18-21**

Jon Ritner October 9, 2011

1. At the halfway point in our Kingdom of God Chapel wide study, share some of the takeaways/applications you have had so far. **Open Answer.**
2. Read Matthew 13:22-43. What observations do you make about the Kingdom of God from these passages. How is God's Kingdom like a seed, yeast and wheat and tares? ? **Our job is to spread it out to the whole world, it is always expanding, it cannot be seen with the human eye, we merely see the effects of God's presence and worship in our life, God's people are living alongside those who serve the evil one and God will not sort it out until he comes back, he allows evil now in order to preserve those who are his. Notice even how the Kingdom blesses others when it is growing in our life, as birds come and perch in the trees branches.** How would you explain why Jesus spoke of the Kingdom of God in such parabolic and symbolic language? **The Kingdom of God is a spiritual reality that cannot fully be seen or depicted in natural ways or to the natural mind.**
3. Define, in your own words, the phrase, "Kingdom Math" that the author uses on page 56. How does that connect with Jon's sermon premise that God's strength only comes as we embrace our weakness? Read Isaiah 40:28-31 and answer questions 1-4 on pages 57 and 58.
4. Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-31. Why did God not choose to honor the wise and strong things of this world? How do we experience wisdom and strength according to Paul? **Through Christ, who is our strength and wisdom.** Read 2 Corinthians 12:1-10. (Note: The Third Heaven is a reference to the Heaven in which God dwells, as opposed to the Earth's atmosphere, or sky (First heaven), and outer space, or starry Heavens (Second Heaven.) It is Paul's way to saying I was taken into the heavenly presence of God.) Regardless of what this weakness was, how did God use it in Paul's life? **He allowed it to remain in order to cause Paul to rely on God's strength instead of his own. It was God's way of keeping Paul humble after his remarkable revelation experience.**
5. Read the definition of the Incarnation on page 56. On page 60, the author states that the pattern of "God does more with less" is seen even in the Incarnation. How did Jesus take the path of weakness in order to demonstrate his strength? **He was willing to take on human flesh, to limit himself as God, he laid down his life in order to receive a new one, he went through death to resurrection, he was mocked en route to being the one at whom the whole world will bow.**
6. Read the passages at the bottom of page 61 and answer the 7 questions that follow.
7. Choose three or so of the application questions on pages 64 ad 65 to ask the group.

**Save time for prayer requests. Pray together for each other. Maybe use the Lord's Prayer found in Matthew 6:9-15.**